[143 cont.]
843 distribute canary nuts or, if these are not available, arrange for a feast with plenty of sharks to eat. During the entire duration of a pregnancy he may not eat coconuts or canary nuts, yams, mangoes, and certain kinds of fish, for this would harm his wife
845 and the child (8). If his wife dies in childbirth, he must not only
602

8. Joest in Baessler, p. 383.

pay the kin group of the wife the purchase money a second time, because he is to blame for her death, but must also compensate his own kin group for the death of the child, which would otherwise have augmented the kin group, and for their help in the burial of his wife (9).

9. Joest, ibid., p. 379. O'Ferrall, p. 224.

[144] In case of twins, one child is killed immediately after birth; it is either strangled, beaten to death, buried
842 alive, or thrown into the refuse pit (1). In general, children

1. Joest, ibid., p. 384; Tagebuch, pp. 64 and 78.

[593] are welcomed; the birth of a child often establishes affection between the parents for the first time. The fondness for chil-
597 dren, moreover, leads to numerous adoptions, which Joest, on the other hand, also calls an act of courtesy and which are often arranged even before birth. Joest goes so far as to maintain that most persons do not know their actual parents. This means, at any rate, that adoption signifies complete acceptance into the
[000] family of the adoptive parents (2). At birth certain ceremonies

2. Joest, ibid., pp. 383, 386. According to F. de Tolna, pp. 281 f., principally children of the inhabitants

/155 cont./

361 villages are found. In the interior the population is very sparse, large villages seem to be absent there, and probably only kin groups or families that for some reason have become isolated live there (2).

2. [Cf. Ethn., I, p. 98. See also Coombe, pp. 186 f.]

161 In Utupua the population has dropped to 300 souls, and still lower in the once populous Vanikoro, whereas it is said that the preservation of the race has been better on the Reef Islands.

167 The reasons for the depopulation seem to be the same
164 here as everywhere in the South Seas: the recruiting of workers
177 and imported epidemics, as well as general demoralization as a
[182] result of contact with Whites, even though only casual here. Today alcohol is no longer imported into Nitendi. Plantation work is carried on in the Solomons, and even though the treatment of the workers there is strictly supervised by the British government, sicknesses cannot be kept at a distance from the Blacks, and they are then spread when the worker returns to his homeland. It is chiefly a matter of respiratory diseases, which are undoubtedly the most dangerous enemy of the natives. It may be said that every recruit ship brings new infections to the island, even though everyone on board seems to be healthy, infections which in a few days develop into dangerous cold and influenza epidemics, to which the old, the children, and the weak fall victim.

164 Aside from such imported diseases, the race seems to be
● [842] healthy. I did not come across leprosy and elephantiasis, /156/ and fertility seems to be satisfactory. A woman seldom raises
163 more than three children, however, and that alone would be sufficient to explain the population decline. The reasons for this
849 may be frequent abortion, which again may rest on the general
182 demoralization. This is an inevitable result of contact between
185 a race of lower culture and Whites.
199